

News

United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Dallas, TX 75202

Dallas/Kansas City Regional Office
Jerome Watters
Regional Economist
(214) 767-6970
<http://www.bls.gov/ro6/home.htm>

For Release:
April 3, 2003

HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW ORLEANS, LA NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2002

Workers in the New Orleans, Louisiana, metropolitan area averaged \$15.88 per hour during March 2002, according to a new survey released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Bob Gaddie reported that white-collar workers averaged \$19.84 per hour and accounted for 48 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$14.99 per hour and represented 31 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$8.02 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments with 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal government. This NCS covered 221 firms representing 218,800 workers in the New Orleans metropolitan area, which includes Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany Parishes in Louisiana. Sixty-nine percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the New Orleans metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 54 detailed occupations. (See table 1.) Among white-collar workers, accountants and auditors averaged \$25.46 per hour; registered nurses, \$23.14; and radiological technicians, \$18.76. Blue-collar occupations included electricians at \$15.69 per hour and construction laborers at \$8.66. In the service occupations, public service police averaged \$13.26 per hour and janitors and cleaners, \$7.78.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the New Orleans area averaged \$16.58 per hour and part-timers earned \$8.82. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$16.53 per hour, while their nonunion counterparts made \$14.59. Private industry workers at establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$12.24 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$17.84.

National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2002 (continued)

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the New Orleans, LA National Compensation Survey March 2002 (Bulletin 3115-26). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Dallas Information Office by calling 214-767-6970. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at <http://www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm>. This release can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service in Dallas by dialing 214-767-9613 and requesting document 9534.

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Dallas Information Office at 214-767-6970 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers(2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2002

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$15.88	3.4	\$15.62	4.6	\$16.52	4.0
All excluding sales	16.00	3.5	15.77	4.7	16.52	4.0
White collar	19.84	3.6	19.60	5.1	20.23	4.5
White collar excluding sales	20.39	3.6	20.50	5.2	20.23	4.5
Professional specialty and technical	24.63	4.8	25.60	8.3	23.61	4.4
Professional specialty	27.08	4.3	29.91	7.2	24.87	4.7
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	33.66	5.1	34.16	4.9	—	—
Engineers, n.e.c.	33.20	6.7	33.20	6.7	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	23.48	5.5	22.33	5.4	25.70	11.2
Registered nurses	23.14	6.0	21.81	4.8	26.01	14.3
Teachers, college and university	35.62	9.4	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	25.98	3.6	—	—	26.78	2.3
Elementary school teachers	26.57	2.6	—	—	26.57	2.6
Secondary school teachers	27.57	1.7	—	—	27.57	1.7
Teachers, special education	28.00	1.9	—	—	28.00	1.9
Librarians, archivists, and curators	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	12.35	6.8	—	—	12.01	6.6
Social workers	12.49	7.3	—	—	12.12	7.1
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	21.63	12.1	—	—	—	—
Technical	17.05	7.9	17.77	10.4	14.89	6.8
Radiological technicians	18.76	3.7	—	—	—	—
Licensed practical nurses	13.53	.8	—	—	—	—
Health technologists and technicians, n.e.c.	13.49	9.8	—	—	—	—
Technical and related, n.e.c.	14.83	12.4	—	—	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.24	6.8	26.38	8.4	29.18	10.8
Executives, administrators, and managers	29.60	8.6	27.37	11.5	32.26	10.9
Administrators and officials, public administration	45.73	20.7	—	—	45.73	20.7
Administrators, education and related fields	34.06	2.7	—	—	—	—
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	34.95	9.2	35.89	9.2	—	—
Management related	25.10	10.3	25.78	11.7	21.89	13.9
Accountants and auditors	25.46	7.1	27.05	5.3	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	27.88	22.5	27.74	27.9	—	—
Sales	12.38	13.1	12.38	13.1	—	—
Cashiers	7.06	7.8	7.06	7.8	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.06	5.1	12.77	6.7	10.71	5.0
Secretaries	13.10	5.5	14.51	7.7	11.83	6.3
Receptionists	8.99	5.9	8.97	6.4	—	—
Records clerks, n.e.c.	11.48	17.6	—	—	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	12.14	7.3	12.05	9.1	—	—
Stock and inventory clerks	9.82	11.4	—	—	—	—
General office clerks	9.59	10.5	—	—	8.50	9.3
Teachers' aides	9.41	3.5	—	—	9.41	3.5
Administrative support, n.e.c.	10.77	4.4	—	—	11.15	7.2
Blue collar	14.99	4.5	15.63	5.1	11.79	4.4
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.61	4.9	19.65	5.3	13.66	4.7
Supervisors, mechanics and repairers	27.55	24.7	—	—	—	—
Automobile mechanics	14.62	11.3	—	—	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	15.65	5.8	16.39	6.9	13.11	6.2
Supervisors, construction trades, n.e.c.	19.49	9.3	—	—	15.24	5.2
Electricians	15.69	5.7	—	—	—	—
Supervisors, production	28.15	11.5	28.97	11.7	—	—
Water and sewer treatment plant operators	10.69	13.1	—	—	10.69	13.1
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.84	10.0	13.95	10.2	—	—

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. **Mean hourly earnings(1), all workers(2): Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2002** — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Blue collar —Continued						
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors						
—Continued						
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	\$11.66	17.3	\$11.66	17.5	—	—
Welders and cutters	15.21	4.2	15.21	4.2	—	—
Transportation and material moving	12.90	3.4	13.18	4.0	\$11.65	5.4
Truck drivers	13.28	20.7	—	—	—	—
Bus drivers	12.75	6.5	—	—	11.73	4.2
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	11.63	10.0	11.70	10.1	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.39	7.4	10.74	8.2	9.05	9.7
Groundskeepers and gardeners, except farm	7.52	3.3	—	—	8.04	5.4
Construction laborers	8.66	5.7	—	—	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	9.64	12.6	9.64	12.6	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	10.96	22.8	—	—	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	12.28	7.7	—	—	—	—
Service	8.02	5.2	7.25	6.7	9.85	5.7
Protective service	11.16	6.6	9.24	10.0	12.07	6.2
Supervisors, police and detectives	17.75	3.3	—	—	17.75	3.3
Firefighting	12.98	8.6	—	—	—	—
Police and detectives, public service	13.26	6.0	—	—	13.95	3.4
Correctional institution officers	9.27	6.1	—	—	9.27	6.1
Guards and police, except public service	7.87	3.7	8.17	4.0	—	—
Food service	5.70	9.5	5.45	10.4	9.84	4.5
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.38	13.3	3.38	13.3	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.94	13.8	2.94	13.8	—	—
Other food service	7.15	8.7	6.88	9.3	9.84	4.5
Cooks	8.17	9.7	—	—	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.27	13.2	7.08	14.3	—	—
Health service	7.71	7.9	7.53	10.5	8.12	7.3
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	7.43	7.3	7.09	8.4	8.16	8.4
Cleaning and building service	7.61	4.5	7.49	5.5	7.91	5.6
Maids and housemen	6.68	4.4	6.68	4.5	—	—
Janitors and cleaners	7.78	4.6	7.62	5.6	7.99	6.3
Personal service	9.33	23.5	10.40	26.9	—	—
Attendants, amusement, and recreation facilities	7.05	12.9	—	—	—	—
Service, n.e.c.	7.58	6.0	7.58	6.0	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2002**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$16.58	\$8.82	\$16.22	\$15.84	\$15.55	\$27.60
All excluding sales	16.65	8.94	16.19	15.97	15.65	32.46
White collar	20.22	14.31	19.98	19.83	19.50	31.47
White-collar excluding sales	20.61	16.47	20.09	20.40	19.96	—
Professional specialty and technical	24.80	22.19	—	24.61	24.15	—
Professional specialty	27.27	24.23	—	27.12	26.48	—
Technical	17.06	—	—	17.05	17.05	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	27.34	—	—	27.24	26.35	—
Sales	13.81	—	—	12.13	11.45	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.30	8.13	—	11.63	12.06	—
Blue collar	15.26	9.07	16.53	14.59	14.59	24.03
Precision production, craft, and repair	18.65	—	18.65	18.60	18.12	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.91	—	15.00	13.35	12.90	—
Transportation and material moving	13.09	—	13.61	12.63	12.78	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.67	7.59	—	10.15	10.39	—
Service	8.91	5.05	9.80	7.89	8.02	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.4	13.3	5.2	3.8	3.0	17.0
All excluding sales	3.4	14.0	5.2	3.8	3.0	17.9
White collar	3.5	18.6	4.3	3.8	3.4	23.5
White-collar excluding sales	3.7	16.0	4.7	3.7	3.4	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.9	9.4	—	4.9	4.3	—
Professional specialty	4.7	7.0	—	4.5	3.8	—
Technical	8.4	—	—	7.9	7.9	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.8	—	—	6.8	6.4	—
Sales	9.5	—	—	13.9	17.5	—
Administrative support, including clerical	5.1	7.2	—	4.0	5.1	—
Blue collar	4.5	7.8	5.9	5.6	4.0	23.1
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.9	—	5.0	6.2	4.5	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	10.0	—	4.7	14.4	6.5	—
Transportation and material moving	3.7	—	4.2	4.5	3.5	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	7.3	7.1	—	8.2	7.4	—
Service	5.9	9.0	12.9	5.6	5.2	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.

Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group², private industry, National Compensation Survey, New Orleans, LA, March 2002**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$15.62	\$12.24	\$16.55	\$15.84	\$17.84
All excluding sales	15.77	12.24	16.81	16.17	17.86
White collar	19.60	18.41	19.80	19.20	20.39
White-collar excluding sales	20.50	18.41	20.93	21.61	20.43
Professional specialty and technical	25.60	33.81	24.66	30.09	23.04
Professional specialty	29.91	33.81	29.17	31.40	28.38
Technical	17.77	—	17.77	27.13	15.74
Executive, administrative, and managerial	26.38	17.99	28.23	27.99	28.54
Sales	12.38	—	12.38	12.41	—
Administrative support, including clerical	12.77	11.63	13.11	14.69	11.01
Blue collar	15.63	12.81	16.44	16.22	17.41
Precision production, craft, and repair	19.65	16.30	20.70	21.18	19.05
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.95	7.90	15.50	15.18	16.69
Transportation and material moving	13.18	12.97	13.22	13.05	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.74	8.79	11.37	10.95	—
Service	7.25	5.68	8.04	7.71	8.64
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	4.6	11.6	4.7	7.1	5.8
All excluding sales	4.7	11.6	4.8	7.4	5.8
White collar	5.1	16.7	5.3	8.2	7.3
White-collar excluding sales	5.2	16.7	5.4	8.0	7.3
Professional specialty and technical	8.3	23.4	7.9	6.8	9.4
Professional specialty	7.2	23.4	6.5	9.5	8.3
Technical	10.4	—	10.4	10.4	7.7
Executive, administrative, and managerial	8.4	13.1	8.3	12.3	11.1
Sales	13.1	—	13.1	13.3	—
Administrative support, including clerical	6.7	7.2	8.1	10.8	6.3
Blue collar	5.1	10.1	5.6	6.7	8.0
Precision production, craft, and repair	5.3	8.2	6.0	7.2	10.2
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	10.2	8.1	10.2	13.0	7.6
Transportation and material moving	4.0	20.2	2.5	2.2	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	8.2	7.5	8.8	10.1	—
Service	6.7	12.6	8.4	12.7	3.1

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria.